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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Application of: Hakim

Patent Application

Serial No.: 09/656,289

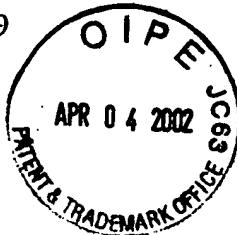
Art Unit: 3727

Examiner: Tri Mai

Filing Date: Sept. 6, 2000

For: Baby Bottles with  
Sealing Icons

Attorney Docket No.: 4009.016



Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Declaration of Nouri E. Hakim under 37 C.F.R. §1.131

I, Nouri E. Hakim, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am the inventor of the subject matter claimed in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/656,289 filed September 6, 2000.
2. The subject matter in pending independent Claim 1 is directed to the invention of:  
An apparatus comprising: a cover for the nipple of a baby bottle, said cover comprising a sealing element for sealing a hole at the top of the nipple.
3. The subject matter in pending independent Claim 16 is directed to the invention of:  
An apparatus, comprising: a cover for the nipple of a baby bottle, said cover being dimensioned such that said cover compresses the nipple of the baby bottle when said cover is

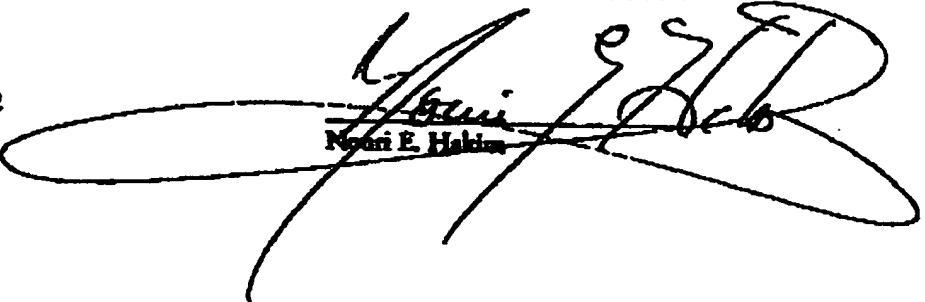
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affixed to the baby bottle.

4. Likewise, the subject matter in pending Claims 51 and 52 also includes the invention of a cover for a baby bottle having a nipple, said cover including a sealing element therein for sealing the orifice at the top of the baby bottle's nipple.
5. These inventions were reduced to practice prior to February 16, 1996; in other words, samples of the inventions were made prior to that date.
6. Attached hereto are invoices from my overseas mold maker (Exhibits A and B). These invoices represents the mold maker's charges to me after they did work on various molds, including molds of these inventions.
7. Attached as well are copies of several of the blueprints which were submitted to my overseas mold maker for construction of the molds of the inventions (Exhibits C, D and E).
8. The blueprints show covers for baby bottles (also known as "hoods"). The hoods each have a sealing element (the "icon") located therein, the icon being a sealing element, i.e. a piece which seals the hole at the top of the nipple of the bottle. The hoods are also dimensioned such that the nipple of the baby bottle is compressed by the inside bottom of the hood when the hood is placed onto the bottle.
9. The blueprints and invoices are dated prior to February 16, 1996. The work by the mold maker was completed prior to the date that they issued the invoice. Samples of the inventions were made in China from the molds prior to February 16, 1996.
10. The drawings and the invoice, therefore, show my reduction to practice (i.e. construction) of the subject matter of the inventions prior to February 16, 1996.
11. The remaining claims of the present application are all dependent on Claims 1 and 16.

12. I declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and that these statements were made with knowledge that willful, false statements and the like are so punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful, false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing therefrom, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Dated: March 25, 2002

  
Naomi E. Hakim